NN/LM
National Network of Libraries of Medicine
New England Region

New England Sounding Line

Ringing in the New Year
John Stey
Associate Director

It always seems appropriate at the start of a new year to reflect on the past and to gaze into the future and predict what changes will occur. For many, change is disorienting but it can be exhilarating as well. It felt great this past week to get rid of many accumulated artifacts from my past that had been laid to rest in the "land where Mom will not go" as my fifteen year old son refers to our basement. Likewise, the NER staff plan to inventory, consolidate and discard hardware, software and paper accumulated since May of 1991 when UCHC was awarded the NN/LM™ contract. We view many of the impending changes from NLM as positive steps to improved access to information in the region. It is our hope that you will continue to support the NN/LM NER program and participate as network members. As always, your feedback and concerns are welcome by calling the network office at 1-800-338-7657 or by e-mailing myself or other staff.

We are pleased to announce that Nancy Putnam will be joining the NER staff on January 2nd as the Outreach Coordinator. Nancy received her M.L.S. from Rutgers University and has worked at Lucent Technologies and Humanities Press. Her first travel assignment is Yankee Dental Congress in Boston at the Hynes Convention Center, January 14-17th. We encourage you to stop by the booth to meet Nancy if you plan to attend.

We would like to thank all who responded to the query posted on the listserv about why people continue to use the ELHILL® system and not the free IGM®/PubMed® interfaces for searching the literature. Thirty-seven responses were presented to Becky Lyon at the Network Office and discussed at the meeting at NLM on December 10th. Summaries of the responses and of the NLM meeting were posted on the listserv and are available on the NER home page **http://www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/ner**. Your responses were very similar to those from the other regions and NLM is now well aware of the concerns and plans to focus on the quality of service in the coming year.

During 1998, NLM will phase out the ELHILL system and move to the client server environment for its databases and other services as mandated by the Office of Management and Budget. It was pointed out at the December 10th meeting in Bethesda, that NLM has been investigating ways to replace ELHILL for many years. This move will mean the end to direct command language searching as we know it today. Therefore, it is important for librarians and other searchers to become familiar with IGM and PubMed as both interfaces will continue to be enhanced to accommodate advanced users and meet the needs of health sciences librarians.

The NER has been awarded a $25,000 enhancement to the current contract to study Internet connectivity in the region and between libraries in New England and NLM. This study will contribute to a better understanding of communication and connectivity in the region that will ultimately impact on programs and planning.

We look forward to having a full staff again and serving you in the coming year. Happy New Year!

Connecticut	Maine	Massachusetts	New Hampshire	Rhode Island	Vermont

Check us out on the World Wide Web at http://www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/ner/

Summary of the Internet Meeting at NLM
John Stey
Associate Director

Donald Lindberg stated that those "not connected" will be at a disadvantage to accessing resources on the Internet. For those who are connected, NLM is looking into the "quality of service" via the Internet.

Fred Wood of NLM will be collecting data on Internet connectivity with the Internet Connectivity Evaluation Project (InterCEPt). The project will attempt to study the "quality of service" via the Internet by examining transmissions speeds, bottlenecks and local connections. The outcome of this project will improve NLM's ability to plan and create programs for the future. Several of the RMLs have been the target of Fred Wood's research. The New England Region will be assisting by collecting data on connectivity within New England and between New England and NLM.

Lois Ann Colaianni stated that an outcome of the meeting was to determine the level of interventions and strategies necessary to get hospitals connected to the Internet.

All eight regions gave similar presentations on the current connectivity status in their respective regions. Neil Rambo of the Pacific Northwest had only a handful of libraries not connected and stated that they had begun to identify and offer services to non-network member organizations, associations and agencies that could benefit by having access to NLM's services and information.

Jim Williams of FARNET also emphasized that the importance of the Next Generation Internet (NGI) or Internet 2 will depend on the "quality of service."

Paul Schyve of JCAHO stressed the need to examine and target the decision makers in hospitals. Benefits and risks to getting connected to the Internet can be accomplished by using cost benefit analysis. Immediate benefits can be pointed out in several key areas including customer service/relations, continuing medical education and credentialing, requisition of supplies, and marketing. The solution begins with cultivating "physician champions" and advocating controlled access in the library, followed by basic education on how Internet information can be used in the healthcare setting. He also agreed that the risks of not being on the Internet were worth pointing out. Schyve also believed that the library was strategically positioned to provide access to information to all areas of an institution. He did say that JCAHO has no immediate plans to integrate Internet into the standards.

Carl Allen described the Universal Service Fund and how it will apply to healthcare organizations. The premise is that rural areas should have access to comparable telecommunications rates that can be purchased in urban areas. Both public and non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for funding. Some examples are: educational institutions, community mental health centers, state and local public health departments and consortia. Applications and further information will be available in early January 1998. *(See page 6)* In addition the NLM Extramural Programs Connections Grants will continue to provide funding for institutions and consortia. A list of action items will be distilled by NLM from the many suggestions generated from a brainstorming session.

Loansome Doc via PubMed was discussed along with other enhancements to PubMed that will occur in the immediate future. All eight regions provided responses from network members on why they were not using IGM/PubMed. The responses were similar and most centered around time, cost, unsophisticated search engines, reliability, and poor connections to the Internet. Many network members prefer using ELHILL command language searching for the above reasons and expressed their concerns about the future of ELHILL.

Lois Ann Colaianni provided the group with some plans that NLM is working on. All of

Internet Connectivity Evaluation Project (InterCEPt)
Vince Boisselle
Technology Coordinator

Recently, the NN/LM New England Regional office accepted a contract enhancement to work with the National Library of Medicine's Office of Computer & Communications Systems staff on the Internet Connectivity Evaluation Project (InterCEPt).

Detailed implementation InterCEPt will depend on the capacities, creativity and individual arrangements of institutions collaborating in this effort. The tests are intended to collect information for a basic understanding of the current performance of Internet communications in different regions of the U. S. and the world. Currently, NLM is monitoring Internet paths from its computer facilities to 42 remote hosts—33 of them are international. Most of these hosts belong or are related to NLM's international MEDLARS® Centers, and to the National Network of Libraries of Medicine's™ (NN/LM) Regional Medical Libraries.

Here in New England, we have chosen to examine three 'rural sites' (sites with only dial-up Internet access), and three 'urban sites' (sites with permanent connections).

RURAL	URBAN
Blue Hill Memorial Hospital Health Education Center Blue Hill, ME	Dartmouth College Dana Biomedical Library Hanover, NH
Rehabilitation Hospital of the Cape and Islands (RHCI) Medical Library East Sandwich, MA	Maine Medical Center Medical Library Portland, ME
Androscoggin Valley Hospital Medical Library Berlin, NH	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy Sheppard Library Boston, MA

A PC will be placed at each site that will periodically test the path between itself and the NN/LM NER office, and between itself and the NLM. The connection between the NN/LM NER and the NLM will also be studied.

We anticipate learning more about New England connectivity, possibly improve connectivity at UCHC and develop a body of data that can be used to advise other sites in the region on how to improve their connections. This information will also be useful to NLM in capacity planning and implementing strategies to promote better access to the NLM databases from sites around New England.

Searching by Subheadings in PubMed*
Jill Livingston
Education Coordinator

Yes, it is possible!

To limit a search by subheading, enclose the MeSH® term followed by a forward slash and the full name of the subheading (no abbreviations) in quotation marks.

For example, to search for the term *myocardial infarction* with the subheading *diet therapy*, enter *myocardial infarction/diet therapy* into the search box.

To limit using more than one subheading, simply create a search string for each subheading and combine sets with a boolean operator.

For example, to search for the term *myocardial infarction* with the subheadings *diet therapy* and *drug therapy*, type the following into the search box: *myocardial infarction/ diet therapy AND myocardial infarction/drug therapy*.

If you need to get a list of subheadings that are applied to a MeSH term, use the Advanced Search Screen. Set the Mode to "List Terms", then type your topic into the search box. A list of terms will appear containing the term you entered. The bottom of this list will contain the MeSH term with its appropriate subheadings. Highlight the term you want then click on "select". If you want more than one term, hold down the [control] key and click with your mouse on as many as you'd like. Then click on "select" to add the terms to your search.

Summary of the Internet Meeting at NLM
Continued from page 2

the bibliographic databases will be consolidated into one file but will be searchable by tagged sets. Non-journal based information resources will be available through the new Integrated Library System (ILS) when it becomes available. DOCLINE® will be kept on the ELHILL system until it can be integrated into the ILS. Both IGM and PubMed will continue to be developed and enhanced. She asked for librarians to send her comparable searches done on PubMed and ELHILL. There is a moratorium on SDIs while NLM is investigating "push technologies" to continue the service via PubMed. On January 1, 1998, NLM will begin including consumer health newsletters in MEDLINE®.

NLM is committed to providing information services to librarians and health professionals via the Internet. As they move from the main frame environment to client server as directed by OMB, the "quality of service" will be a priority.

National Online Training Center's Schedule

The new year has brought with it the classes to provide the training necessary to utilize the National Library of Medicine's databases that are accessed via the World Wide Web. The increased demand for instruction has seen more classes added to the original schedule. The one day *Transition* class and two day *Introduction* class schedule for the Northeast is given below. For a complete listing see the URL **http://www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/mar/online/index.html** or to contact the office at 1-800-338-7657 and press "2". Sign up early as some classes are already filled. Check with the NOTC office to ask about a waiting list or contact the NER office to perhaps arrange alternative training.

Making the Transition: Converting to PubMed and IGM to search NLM's Databases

February 11, 1998	Highland, NY
March 4, 1998	New York, NY-**CLASS FULL**
April 8, 1998	Boston, MA-**CLASS FULL**
May 20, 1998	New York, NY-**CLASS FULL**
July 27, 1998	Farmington, CT
July 31, 1998	New York, NY
September 25, 1998	Buffalo, NY
October 16, 1998	New York, NY

Introduction to Web-based Searching for the Librarian and Information Specialist: Using PubMed and Internet Grateful Med to Search NLM's Databases

February 9-10, 1998	Highland, NY
April 6-7, 1998	Boston, MA-**CLASS FULL**
May 18-19, 1998	New York, NY
July 28-29, 1998	Farmington, CT
August 18-19, 1998	New York, NY
September 23-24, 1998	Buffalo, NY
October 14-15, 1998	New York, NY

Excerpted from the NLM Technical Bulletin. September-October 1997:

As part of NLM's efforts to simplify access to online information and reduce expenses to users, the CHEMLINE® and TOXLIT®/TOXLIT65® files will no longer be available from NLM after January 1, 1998. With the advent of free Web access to MEDLINE and other NLM files through PubMed and IGM, and upcoming changes in accessing the Toxicology and Environmental Information Health Program files as well, it will no longer be practical to support royalty files as part of MEDLARS. Ms. Jan Williams of Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS), the producer of CHEMLINE and TOXLIT data, may be reached at 800-848-6548 ext. 3868 or at jan.williams@cas.org for information about alternative sources of the data.

For more information on NLM's toxicology information resources, visit **http://sis.nlm.nih.gov**.

What happened to the Location Codes in SERLINE®?
Roz Leiderman, Collection Access Section
Public Services Division, NLM

In October, 1997, NLM removed the Location Codes from SERLINE because they were no longer current. An announcement of this change appeared in the July-August issue of the NLM *Technical Bulletin*. (**http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/tb.html**)

> The following fields will be removed from SERLINE effective with the October 1997 update:
>
> Regional Locator Codes (L1-L8)
>
> Regional Locator Counts (K1-K8)
>
> Region (RG)
>
> The data in the SERLINE locator fields is no longer current and will not be updated due to technical constraints. Current holdings information is available via SERHOLD®, which serves as the basis for DOCLINE, NLM's online interlibrary loan request and referral system for health sciences libraries. Descriptive information about libraries and other organizations which use NLM's Interlibrary Loan (ILL) services or are a part of the Regional Document Delivery Network is provided by the DOCUSER® (DOCUMENT DELIVERY USER) database. *-Technical Bulletin.*

Until 1995, Location Codes were updated annually from resource library data reported in SERHOLD. A technical problem with an antiquated program prevented the annual update from SERHOLD to SERLINE in 1996 and 1997. Because current NLM system reinvention efforts are focused on the integration of SERLINE, CATLINE® and AVLINE® into one bibliographic database under an integrated library system, modifications to existing legacy systems have been limited. NLM recognizes the importance of holdings information to network libraries. The success of DOCLINE is largely based on the accuracy of the holdings data submitted by network libraries, and there is no plan to change that. (See an interesting article on this issue by Barbara Slater in the October 1997 issue of the *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*). We will be investigating the need for display of holdings or location information in our future system.

Grants Gallery
Marion Holena Levine
Assistant Director

One of the databases available on Internet Grateful Med **http://igm.nlm.nih.gov** is HSRPROJ - Health Services Research Projects in Progress. This database provides project records, in the form of lengthy abstracts, for research in progress funded by federal and private grants and contracts. Records include project summaries, names of performing and sponsoring agencies, names and addresses of the principal investigators, beginning and ending years of the project, and when information about study design and methodology will become available. The database contains over 3,000 records.

When would you search HSRPROJ? To find out what research someone is currently involved in...to find out the types of research successfully funded by a particular agency...to find out the range of research funding available from a particular agency.

Check it out. It might be a useful database for your researchers to know about.

What Does (A)riel Mean?
Edward Donnald
Network Coordinator

Ariel is the document transmission system produced by the Research Libraries Group (**http://www.rlg.org**) where with commercially available computer hardware and Ariel software, you can scan documents and transmit the images to another Ariel workstation via the Internet. Earlier this year, DOCLINE enhancements included a new and expanded DELIVERY prompt that allows a borrower to chose (A)riel as a specific delivery method for the request. This would then only route the request to libraries that indicated in their DOCUSER record that they participated in Ariel and had their address listed. The reality is there are not a great number of libraries that would qualify. Of the 249 active DOCLINE libraries in New England, only 9 have Ariel listed in their DOCUSER record. To get around that, some libraries input the request as (M)ail so it'll route on their entire routing table, but then in the comments field put "Please Ariel." It has been suggested that the intent of this is to get the article as fast as possible. I would like to suggest if you then receive a request like this and can't provide it via Ariel, give the requesting library a quick phone call to see if a fax will do. The NER office changed all NN/LM NER members DOCUSER record to "Yes" in the Fax field, so that in the event that you enter a request as (F)ax, it won't skip potential lenders as virtually everyone can provide a fax. If you get a request that is asking for Ariel or Fax and you can't or don't want to provide that service, pass the request on, so someone else can. Let's not forget the spirit of cooperation and the need for documents in a timely manner.

EFTS Transaction File Creator Program Sent Out

A disk with the EFTS Transaction File Creator Program was sent out to all EFTS participants last month. It is designed to be used by those people who need to upload a file to collect for a loan but DO NOT use QuickDOC®. The progam solicits information about who you are and the date range for the file. Simply fill in the blanks for each loan. When you are finished, it adds up the lines and charges and creates the file to be uploaded. This should help to eliminate the formatting errors that we have seen for those creating the file themselves. Again, this is for those that don't have an automated way of creating the transaction file for upload and need to send one to collect funds for a loan made. If you don't charge for any loans, then you don't need to use it. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Calendar of Events

January 21, 1998

NN/LM NER staff will be attending the ARIHSL meeting. Providence, RI

February 11, 1998

The NN/LM NER staff will be attending the CAHSL meeting. Wallingford, CT

March 11, 1998

The NNLM NER staff will be attending the CAHSL meeting. Wallingford, CT

March 31-April 1, 1998

The NN/LM NER staff will be exhibiting at the New England Healthcare Assembly. Boston, MA

April 6-7, 1998

Introduction To Web-Based Searching, Boston, MA
Info: 800-338-7657, press "2"
http://www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/ mar/online/request.html

April 8, 1998

The NNLM NER staff will be

attending the CAHSL meeting. Wallingford, CT

April 29, 1998

The NNLM NER staff will be attending the MAHSLIN meeting. Lexington, MA

May 22-27, 1998

The NNLM NER staff will be attending the MLA annual conference. Philadelphia, PA

Universal Service for Health Care - Equal Access to the Internet

In the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Congress called for access for rural health care providers to telecommunications services that are necessarey for the delivery of health care services and information at rates comparable to those paid in urban areas. Universal Services for Health and a comparable program for schools and libraries expand the FCC's existing Universal Service Program, which makes the cost of basic telephone service comparable for all Americans, regardless of location.

In other words, the program is designed to afford equal access to the Internet and telecommunications services no matter where you are. It pays the difference between the cost of a telecommunications service in a rural area and that of the same service in an urban area. The program has two parts with the first paying for a set number of hours per month of toll charges for Internet connection. The second part will allow an institution to gain access up to a T-1line with the same leveling of pricing. If you are a library, you may find additional information at **http://www.neca.org/funds/index.htm**. Information for the Rural Health Care Provider will be forthcoming so stay tuned to the NESL and the listserv. Another site to look at is the FCC's page on Universal Service for Health Care at **http://www.fcc.gov/healthnet**. If you may be interested or have further questions, please contact the office at 1-800-338-7657 or 860-679-4500.

The National Network of Libraries of Medicine
New England Region
University of Connecticut Health Center
263 Farmington Avenue
Farmington, CT 06030-5370

Return Address Correction Requested